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just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area

The 2,600-acre Lakeside Ranch project is a key component of the 2007 Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection Program. This landmark state restoration initiative expanded the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to strengthen protection for the Northern Everglades, recognizing connectivity of the entire Everglades ecosystem and the importance of capturing and cleaning water before it flows into Lake Okeechobee. The Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) is featured in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project Phase II Technical Plan.

Lakeside Ranch STA

- Lakeside Ranch STA is in the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough sub-watershed, one of the nutrient “hot spots” in the Lake Okeechobee watershed.
- The project involves constructing a 2,000-acre wetland that will use emergent vegetation to remove phosphorus from stormwater runoff in the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough basin before it enters Lake Okeechobee.
- The project is designed in two phases: The northern STA and inflow pump station; and the southern STA, including a second pump station to manage rim canal levels in Lake Okeechobee during high water flow periods and recirculate water in Lake Okeechobee back to the STA for additional phosphorus removal.

Project benefits

- Up to 19 metric tons of phosphorus will be removed annually from runoff flows moving through the STA and into Lake Okeechobee. This will contribute toward the goal of achieving the Lake Okeechobee Total Maximum Daily Load phosphorus target.
- The STA is capable of recirculating water from Lake Okeechobee for additional phosphorus removal.
- Lake Okeechobee water quality will be improved.
- A preserve area at the STA will protect wildlife and cultural resources.

Project schedule

- Construction on the northern STA and pump station is ongoing, with completion planned for March 2012.
- The estimated investment in the initial construction is \$31 million.
- Construction of the southern STA and related pump station is contingent on additional funding, with cost estimated at \$42 million.

More detail about the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project Phase II Technical Plan is online at: www.sfwmd.gov/northerneverglades.



sfwmd.gov
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-686-8800 or 1-800-432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area

